

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /078 W
-----070252Z 063287 /66
R 062112Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3601
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID UNDP UK
SUBJECT: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNDP REPORT ON
ITS FUTURE ROLE

REF: STATE 86320

1. WE DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING REPORT BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR WITH UN DEPARTMENT FCO AND ODM OFFICIALS MAY 4. THEY STATED SUBJECT IS UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW WITHIN WHITEHALL BUT THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE DETAILED COMMENTS BEFORE DOCUMENT IS ACTUALLY AVAILABLE FOR STUDY. THEY ALSO WELCOME PROSPECT OF FURTHER, MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND SPECIFIC TALKS WITH USG ON ISSUES RAISED IN UNDP PAPER.

2. JOHN SYMONS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SIDE OF FCO'S UN DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT UK OFFICIALS GENERALLY FEEL THAT UNDP HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT UNFAIRLY MALIGNED IN PAST. WHILE RECOGNIZING NEED TO IMPROVE ITS ADMINISTRATION THEY FEEL THIS RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THAT THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) SHOULD ACT TO SUPPORT HIM. HE ADDED
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THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN SEVERELY HAMPERED BY THE NONCONVERTIBLE CURRENCY PROBLEM.

3. INFORMAL FCO AND ODM COMMENTS ON POINTS OUTLINED PARA 5 REFTEL FOLLOW.

(A) PROBLEM OF EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK IS NOT UNIQUE TO UNDP BUT ONE WHICH CONCERNS UK IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ALL UN BODIES. THEY FEEL HOWEVER THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMPOSE SOLUTION FROM OUTSIDE AND THAT IT IS PREFERABLE FOR THE ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES TO FIND THE BEST MEANS OF APPLYING PAST EXPERIENCE TO CURRENT PROBLEMS.

(B) UK FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE COUNTRY RES REP SHOULD BE REINFORCED AS COORDINATOR AND TEAM LEADER OF ALL UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. FCO IS TURNING A PARTICULARLY JAUNDICED EYE TOWARDS GROWING NUMBER OF FAO REPRESENTATIVES IN DEVELOPING WORLD. ODM OFFICIALS WILL RAISE THIS POINT IN MEETINGS WITH FAO AND STRESS UK VIEW THAT THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE RUN THROUGH UNDP RES REPS.

(C) UK FEELS OVERALL COORDINATION OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE ONE OF KEY ROLES OF UNDP FIELD OFFICES.

(D) WHILE NONCONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES REMAINS MAJOR PROBLEM, LONG TERM COMMITMENTS OF FUNDING UNDER SOME IDA TYPE ARRANGEMENT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE UNDP'S PLANNING ABILITY. UK FEELS OPEC MIGHT HAVE GREATER ROLE TO PLAY WITHIN UNDP BUT SEES THIS ESSENTIALLY IN WIDER NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE CONTEXT IN WHICH MUCH WILL DEPEND ON FOLLOW UP TO CIEC. OPEC HAS SHOWN THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN IFAD A CERTAIN WILLINGNESS TO BE

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /078 W
-----070251Z 063250 /66

R 062112Z MAY 77
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FORTHCOMING IN THIS AREA. IT IS UK POLICY TO CHANNEL
AS LARGE A PERCENTAGE OF ITS MULTILATERAL AID THROUGH
UNDP AS POSSIBLE.

(E) ISSUE OF SINGLE GENERAL UNDP FUND IS ALSO UNDER
CONSIDERATION IN TERMS OF GENERAL UN RESTRUCTURING
EXERCISE. UK WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE PRESENT FUND
BROKEN UP AND WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DETAILS OF U.S.
THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OUTLINED PARA 6 REFTEL.
IT IS ALREADY ODM POLICY TO FOCUS ITS AID ON THE POOREST
SECTORS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES. HOWEVER THERE IS
SOME QUESTION AS TO WISDOM OF LIMITING UNDP'S BRIEF IN
SAME WAY. ODM CAN FORESEE, FOR EXAMPLE, SERIOUS
POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS IF WE PUSH
TOO HARD IN THIS DIRECTION. UK WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO
SUGGESTION THAT SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED
ON COST REIMBURSABLE BASIS, E.G. TO OPEC COUNTRIES.

5. ACCORDING TO SYMONS, COPING WITH THE OVERBURDENING
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PAPERWORK IS ANOTHER PROBLEM NOT JUST RESTRICTED TO
UNDP AND WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SOLVE. HE
DOUBTS IF SINGLE YEARLY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WOULD
ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO DEAL WITH EVERYTHING. ODM
ARGUES THAT PERHAPS EVEN MORE FREQUENT SESSIONS ARE
NEEDED TO IMPROVE SECRETARIAT ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPON-
SIVENESS. FINALLY UK REMAINS STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE
COUNTRY PROGRAM CONCEPT. THEY DO NOT PRECLUDE SUPPORT
FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS BUT DO QUESTION MERIT OF BROAD
SECTORAL APPROACHES WHICH THEY FEEL OFTEN RESULT IN
UNNECESSARY COMPETITION WITHIN AND BETWEEN NATIONAL
MINISTRIES FOR THE SAME FUNDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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